GA LEAD CONFERENCE CALL/WEBINAR – April 23, 2010

NOTES

Meeting / Webinar Overview – Marlena Hovorka

Contact Information:
> Lisa M Elenz, Wildland Fire Management RD&A, lelenz@fs.fed.us
> Gladys Crabtree, Wildland Fire Management RD&A, Gladys_Crabtree@nps.gov
> Marlena Hovorka, Wildland Fire RD&A, mhovorka@fs.fed.us

Topics:

- DOI Work on Field Support for Decision Tools
- WFDSS Update
- National Fire Decision Support Center Update
- Data Management
- GA Editor Comments / Questions

Action Items

- Next Call May 24th at 1100 MDT
- Send agenda items for next call to Marlena Hovorka
- NFDSC SOP's – need feedback on this document.
- Fire behavior specialist list will be mailed through GA Editors and other means to create a google document for use by all. This will eliminate hand copying information and allow users to provide approval for sharing information.
- Fall face-to-face meeting scheduled November 16-18, 2010. Location has been reserved in Portland Oregon.
    o Each GA needs to identify the number of attendees from their GA

Thanks to all of the GA Editors that provided SOPs to post on the WFDSS Data/GA website.

NOTES:

DOI Decision Support – Jeff Manley

- DOI National Fire Planners were recently tasked by the DOI Fire Directors to determine field needs in support of all of the technology related to the various programs being used by the field. Jeff spoke to the GA Leads for WFDSS to request assistance in getting feedback on how to guide and assist the field level since the GA Leads have been doing a lot of that work. The Fire Planners are looking at all of the various programs that are requiring data analytics that would require support. On a follow up call to the directors they will be relaying workload, alternatives how to staff such support and where it might be staffed. They think it would be best to put help as close to the field as possible. The group is trying to figure out what the workload is, what kind of assistance might be needed, and how to organize to manage needs/demands over time. Starting small and growing it outwards.
- The DOI would like to have something in place by next FY.
- If you have information or thoughts for this group to consider, Jeff's Number 208-387-5221 or Jeff_Manley@nps.gov

WFDSS Update – Rob Seli

Next Release
- Combined the May and April releases in to one. Likely mid to late May. Lost pretty much a whole week of work due to security issues. The good news is that it will have a lot of good stuff in it.
  - Ability to download groups of shapefiles
  - FARSITE hopefully in the next release. Mitch has been testing it. Much, much faster than the older version.. this will open up some new opportunities.
  - Will be able to download final fire perimeters or current fire perimeters
  - WinZip 14 issue didn't go as smoothly as hoped.
  - Dealing with the BIA Trust network issues.

Dealing with Complexes
- Really have to figure out the side boards on how we create complexes. Rob has talked to many people about it. Think we need to simplify how to manage complexes and when to use them.
- Give us a call if you run in to this and we will try to assist you in developing a solution if we can.
- If you figure out a system, let us know what worked for you.
- **Q** - Can you copy incident objectives or information from one fire to another? **ANS** - Not being worked on at this time and it is not a simple issue. So far it hasn't moved up on the priority list too far.

Analysis Priorities
- We don't anticipate an issue with prioritizing incidents this year. Anticipate the problem being analysts.
- Some issues did arise this week in training from the stand point of users sending in analysis that were not realistic given the analysis area and number of fires. There were FsPro runs that exceed 64 GB ram.
- Key point – training. Start small in your analysis. Don't do the fine if you can't do the time.

New Periodic Assessment Reporting
- Rob showed a new periodic assessment report example which is an opportunity to provide a lot of information in a report to the GA Editors. A new email format that will have a lot more information on it.
- It is relatively easy to use. We could add people to the list.
- Will start rolling out as soon as Hans and Rob turn it on.
- **Q** - Can it be done by agency? **ANS** - Can do it by Agency or by GA. Can't do both.

Security Training for Non-Fed folks
- Whoever approves the non-federal folks in the system needs to maintain records that they have received the training.
- Common user authentication – one password for both systems (Production & Training).

Anticipating Needs for Future
- Looks like the Midwest and R-9 folks may have some fire activity this weekend.
- Do we want to think about how we can coordinate or anticipate future needs to assist other GA's and ensure people are available? Rob, Marlena, and Lisa are all available if needed.

Question - Can we view FMU layers. **ANS -** Being worked on hopefully will be in the next release. This will help resolve problems with viewing some of the complex layers such as the Surface Management Agency (SMA – Land ownership) and FMU layers.

NFDSC - Lisa Elenz

- Draft SOPs loaded on WFM RD&A site (http://www.wfmrda.org/NFDSC.html). Still looking for feedback and input.
- Monitoring fire behavior requests. Will work with Geographic Areas.
- Will be sending out a google document that Sam worked on so GAs do not need to hand assemble list of qualified and trainee fire behavior analysts.

Data Management & FRAMES Website– Gladys Crabtree

- Continue to add and/or update FMU shapefiles at the end of each month.
- Continue to work on on-line help & the "?" next to a layer in WFDSS to describe the layer
- Reminder .. FRAMES Data/GA Editor Site http://frames.nbii.gov/wfdss
- Marlena is the FRAMES primary contact for the GA Editor pages with Ben (ben_butler@nps.gov – 208.387.5222) doing the posting if you have corrections/updates for the FRAMES web page.
- 2010 draft Data refresh plan is posted on FRAMES.

Misc Notes & GA Editor Feedback:

- Amanda
  - Fire Behavior Specialist Training – share mistakes made. If you go in the system to change the GA Area, it changes in both training and production.
  - **Request:** When GA Editors give someone privileges there is no way to track who they gave it to. If there was a way to do this, it would helpful.
  - **Request:** Given some things that happened last year. Would be nice to give GA Editors a way to look at the analysis. They are not super analysts but it would be nice for them to be able to view the information. Default view access or something. Maybe the simplest is to give super analyst privileges